

**From:** Richard Kelsch  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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The proposed settlement with Microsoft's anti-trust violations amounts to a joke. I understand some may think it may be good for a lagging economy, but those with those misguided thoughts have forgotten why those anti-trust laws were made. They were made to protect commerce and competition. It is common knowledge, not just judicial precedent, that their business model is to stomp on all competition by numerous illegal or barely legal marketing practices that only a financial behemoth could afford to do long enough to put the competition out of business. (they see a good product, copy that idea and make it part of their operating system on the next OS release). They have not innovated or invented any technologies they currently claim as their own. All have been duplicated in operation and function as their competition was marketing as a separate software product, or the competing company has been absorbed into the Microsoft software devouring machine.

Microsoft giving free systems and products to schools essentially gives a whole new generation of computer uses indoctrination to Microsoft products and not a healthy environment of alternatives. What you have essentially done was assist Microsoft in their next underhanded move. How many other competing companies can afford to give free products to schools and such without a major hit to their ability to make a profit? This same technique is what made Microsoft the over powered beast it is today.

A world without a big Microsoft behemoth that squashes all competition and extorts huge licensing fees from it's already locked in customers and instead many competing companies with competing products makes for business and a healthy economy. This country was founded to allow the little guy the ability to live the American dream, not to give a far too powerful corporation the ability to literally control the market (with strong arming and bullying) they are supposed to compete in.

I don't see how you think saying "bad boy" and it's business as usual, is going to help our economy? Punish companies like Microsoft that abuse our capitalistic system by quashing competition. Restore competition and you'll restore the economy to a healthy state.

My final words are this analogy: "What if the computer world were likened to the automobile world? What if there was only one major car manufacturer in the world setting and making all of the standards for the industry? Let's assume you demanded high licensing fees to just be able to drive that car each year? The only competition was various "kit car" groups making specialized and higher quality cars, but unable to compete with the big monopoly which stomps on those that try to compete with them. Some of these small groups may make money making special addons to

increase performance on the monopoly's vehicles. A CEO at the monopoly likes these addons, they reverse engineer the addon or extort the rights to the addon from the small company (by threatening to release one anyway to compete with them or sell to them now to save them time) and offer the addon as a standard inclusion in their next model car and then claim the car wouldn't work without it." - That's Microsoft if they were a car company.

Thank you for your time,

Richard Kelsch  
Supporter of Capitalism